



## THE SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB

Residential Horticulture  
Seminole County Extension  
407-665-5550



### OCTOBER-NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

#### LAWNS:

- **Mowing:** Continue mowing at the recommended height for your specific variety. Cut no more than 1/3 of the leaf height per mowing. Standard St. Augustine grass should be cut 3-4 inches high and semi-dwarf varieties 2.0-2.5 inches high.
- **Irrigation:** Continue irrigation to prevent water stress, applying  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch twice a week if no rain occurs. Grass needs less water in cool season. Once a week could be sufficient, water when leaf blades begin to fold. Irrigate following onset of frost to prevent winter dehydration in cooler weather.
- **Pest Control:** Scout for early symptoms of insect or disease damage and apply recommended chemical controls to prevent grass injury.
- **Fertilization:** Do not fertilize the lawn at this time in central Florida. One month before expected first frost, apply 1 pound of potash per 1000 square feet using 1.6 pounds of muriate of potash (0-0-60) or 2 pounds of potassium sulfate (0-0-50) to increase grass winter hardiness. Do not apply potassium during hot periods or if the lawn is under water stress. Irrigate after application to prevent chemical burn.

#### CITRUS

- **Pruning:** Pruning should be done only to remove diseased or unproductive branches, do not prune after October to avoid damage

### FALL 2011

Inside this issue:

Fall Checklist	1 & 2
FYN	3
"Ask A Master Gardener"	4
Teaching Garden News	5
Pest Alert: Passionvine Mealybug	5
Events Updates & Services	6

Dr. Al Ferrer  
Urban Horticulturist  
Seminole County Extension

[AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

#### HORTICULTURAL SERVICES



**Horticultural Agent** Dr. Al Ferrer

**Soil Testing** Test performed Mon. & Fri.  
Fee \$2.00 per sample  
Samples accepted Mon. - Fri. 8:00am. - 4:00pm

**Plant Clinic** Mon.- Fri. 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Bring in a sample

**"Ask A Master Gardener"** Call 407-665-5550  
**Phone Service** Mon.- Fri. 9:00am - 4:00pm

Speakers, Workshops, Special events  
Free publications on many lawn & garden topics

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
IFAS ~ EXTENSION  
<http://solutionsforyourlife.com>  
<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>  
<http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences is an Equal Employment Opportunity - Affirmative Action Employer authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap or national origin. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORK IN AGRICULTURE, HOME ECONOMICS, STATE OF FLORIDA, IFAS, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, AND BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COOPERATING.



(Continued from pg 1)

- **Fertilization:** Transplanted trees should be fertilized only after new growth starts. For fruit bearing trees, the 4<sup>th</sup> and last fertilization of the year should be in October. Spread the fertilizer over the area from about one ft. from the trunk to 3 ft. past the drip line. Apply a special citrus or fruit tree fertilizer  $\frac{1}{4}$  the total amount recommended per year (Total pounds of fertilizer per year is equal to total inches of tree trunk circumference).
- **Irrigation:** Citrus should be irrigated twice a week with  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch of water in absence of rain. One inch of water per week can be applied during the cooler months of the year.
- **Weed control:** Citrus should be kept free of weeds and never mulched. Keep the weeds away from young trees in the 3 ft. area around the trunk. For older trees, keep weeds out of the area under the canopy of the tree by mowing or using herbicides. Be careful when using any herbicide, it is safer to use herbicides with no soil activity such as Round up (glyphosate). Do not apply herbicides during windy conditions that may carry the herbicide and cause damage to the tree or other plants.

## PALMS

- **Fertilization:** Palms should be fertilized Four times per year and in deep sandy soils up to six times per year. Use a special palm fertilizer to supply magnesium and manganese so important for palm growth. Use 1.5 pounds of fertilizer per 100 square feet in October. If nutritional deficiencies of a particular nutrient are visible, additional applications of that nutrient may be necessary to correct the problem. **Do not apply a turf fertilizer near palms, high nitrogen fertilizers can induce severe to fatal potassium and magnesium deficiencies in landscape palms.**
- **Irrigation:** Most palms will benefit from a supplemental watering once per week. Palms from arid regions such as Date palms should not be irrigated as frequently as turf.
- **Pruning:** Old dead leaves should be removed by cutting them from the underside to avoid tearing the fibers of the palm's stem. Do not remove green or slightly spotted leaves, palms need all the available green photosynthetic area to produce food.



## Fall Vegetables & Herbs

**VEGETABLES** – Beets, Broccoli, Brussels sprouts, Cabbage, Carrots, Cauliflower, Celery, Lettuce, Mustard greens, Onions, Parsley, English peas, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach, Strawberry, and Turnips.

**HERBS** - Anise, Basil, Bay laurel, Coriander, Dill, Lemon balm, Lavender, Mexican tarragon, Mint, Parsley, Rosemary, Sage, Sweet fennel, Thyme and Sweet marjoram.



- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Right Plant, Right Place</b> | 6. Manage Yard Pests Responsibly |
| 2. Water Efficiently               | 7. Recycle                       |
| 3. Fertilize Appropriately         | 8. Reduce Stormwater Runoff      |
| 4. Mulch                           | 9. Protect the Waterfront        |
| 5. Attract Wildlife                |                                  |

Central Florida is different-it's extreme summer heat, excessive rain and then extreme drought, hurricanes, sandy to mucky soils, urban fill, water restrictions, healthy bug and pest community, Disney like expectations, weed population, Green Industry professionals, conflicting recommendations about gardening are all factors when creating a design for your yard.

Creating a landscape design is a big project or even retrofitting an existing yard. There are many steps and decisions you must make to be successful. When you decide to create a new outdoor living space with little maintenance that uses less water and chemicals such as fertilizers and pesticides you must select plants that are compatible with your site conditions. First you must make an inventory of your existing yard. The inventory should include:

de-  
wa-  
are  
exist-

1. A diagram of your existing irrigation system
2. A base map of your existing plants and dimensions of the space;
3. Do a sun/shade study to see where you have full sun areas (6 hour or more per day)
4. Check your soil types and determine if amendments are necessary;

After completion of these tasks you must then decide your budget. Phasing a master plan in a cost budget is most helpful. You must prioritize your lists. Are you going to do the work yourself or hire someone?

Once you have your base map on paper then you can decide if you are going to enlarge your beds, remove trees or replace sod. If you intend on adding hard spaces, such as walkways or decks which are the first thing you should do.

Plant selection requires you do some research and learn about the plants mature size, growth patterns, water and sun needs and nutritional needs. You want to consider when it flowers and where it will grow the best in your existing conditions. Redoing your irrigation system to water plants by like water needs is a very important consideration. Plant grouping by water needs, moderately large beds in regular shapes for efficient watering, hand watering of high water requirements annuals plants with alternative sources such as rain barrels, small areas of turf combined with ground covers and shrubs can be used.

If you would like to learn more contact: Gabrielle Milch, Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program Coordinator at 407-665-5575 or email [fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov). Check out the Seminole County Website for a list of classes through December.

Q. The previous issue promised to share ways to make self watering planters at home for \$10.00 or less. Please continue.

A. To keep the cost low (or even free) use recycled plastic parts. There are many alternative parts that can be substituted, but a single example is cited for brevity. Substitute whatever you have that approximates the dimensions and characteristics of the examples.

## Parts List

- Plastic Coffee Can (28 oz size, about 6” Diameter x 6” Tall). Lid not required.
- Plastic Kitty Litter Bucket (38 lb size, about 9”W x 12”L x 15” Tall). No leaks within 4” of the bottom. Lid not required. Round 5 gallon bucket will also work.
- Plastic Pipe, PVC typical (1.5” to 2” Diameter x 16” Long) for fill pipe.
- Plastic Flexible Tubing (about 4” to 6” Long, any Diameter between ½” and 1”) Old garden hose will also work. Used for water overflow and ventilation.

## Tools Used

- Utility Knife (to cut one hole in litter bucket; two holes in coffee can; cut flexible tubing)
- Drill (1/4” bit to drill about 30 to 40 holes in coffee can)
- Hack Saw (to cut PVC pipe to required length)

## Fabrication Instructions

**Coffee Can:** In the bottom, as near the outer edge as practical cut a hole the diameter of the PVC pipe. Also in the bottom, drill ¼” holes spaced about 1” apart (about 30 to 40 holes). In the side, about 1” from the bottom and about 90 degree angle to the large hole in the bottom cut a hole the diameter of the flexible tubing.

**Litter Bucket:** Cut a hole in the side the diameter of the flexible tubing. To determine hole placement, position the coffee can inside the bucket, bottom side up, with the hole for flexible tubing facing a long side of the bucket. Slide the coffee can into a corner of the bucket, keeping the flexible tubing hole flush with the side of the bucket. Mark the position and size of the flexible tubing hole on the side of the bucket and cut the hole using a utility knife, or drill bit if you have one the size of the flexible tubing.

**Fill Pipe:** Cut the PVC pipe about 1” to 2” longer than the depth of the bucket.

**Flexible Tubing:** Cut the flexible tubing to about 4” to 6” long.

**Assembly:** Place the coffee can bottom side up inside the bucket, aligning the hole for flexible tubing with the hole in the side of the bucket. Insert the flexible tubing through the holes in the bucket and the coffee can, leaving about 2” to 3” of tubing inside and outside the bucket. Position the coffee can as close to the side of the bucket as possible. Insert the PVC fill pipe through the large hole in the coffee can until the fill pipe rests on the bottom of the bucket.

The planter is now ready for potting mix, water, fertilizer and vegetables, which will be addressed in the next issue. In the mean time, search the Internet for “homemade self watering planter” to see many great ideas from people around the world.







## The Teaching Gardens Of Seminole County

To educate and encourage the practice of urban horticulture

Free and open to the public during regular business hours. For more information, to request a speaker, or arrange group visits, contact the garden coordinator.

### Extension Office Gardens • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32771

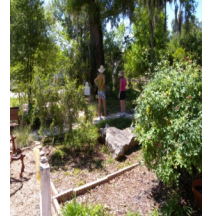
"It's been a long, hot summer but some relief is in sight with the (sometimes just barely) noticeable cooler evenings and nights as we move through September into October. Thanks to several new Master Gardeners, you'll notice around the Extension Office the improved fall vegetable garden in the rear and the major renovation of the Butterfly garden and aquatic pond between the main office and the auditorium. Due to roof cleaning and pressure washing over the summer, the gardens have experienced some cleaning chemical burn damage resulting in plant loss. In the Butterfly garden, you'll see lots of new larval and nectar plantings over the course of the fall. In the front sun and shade gardens, the Walter's Viburnum has been burned, and we are watching to see how it recovers before any major pruning or replacement. And, as always, there's the constant fun and entertainment with weeds, weeds, weeds!"

**Coordinators; Jim Bourg, jwbourg@gmail.com**

### Student Museum Gardens • 301 W. 7th St, Sanford, 32771

The Student Museum has gotten off to the school year with the Bell Ringing Ceremony. The gardens are available 24/7 and the museum itself is open to the public Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. Master Gardeners are available on the last Saturday of each month. Come work side by side and ask your questions about the museum gardens and questions relating to your home gardening.

**Coordinators: Dave Grace, dcgrace01@aol.com**



### Waterwise FY&N Garden • 250 W County Home Rd, Sanford, 32773

The butterfly garden has been refreshed and is now waiting for new admirers which are essential for vigorous growth. Seymour, the boy fountain, has been recycled into a succulent garden. Butterflies sightings include: Queen, Monarch and Eastern Swallowtail. A hummingbird comes daily to the Fire Bush.

**Coordinators: Mary Allen, maisie303@yahoo.com**

The Seminole County Master Gardener EXPO  
Saturday, October 29, 2011 at Seminole County Extension Center  
10 am to 4 pm.

For more info: [www.seminolecountymastergardeners.com](http://www.seminolecountymastergardeners.com)



## Pest Alert: The Passionvine Mealybug found in South Florida

The passionvine mealybug (*Planococcus minor*) has been established in several Caribbean countries and Central and South America since at least the late 1980's. In December 2010, specimens collected from an ornamental plant (*Mussaenda* sp) in the Fairchild Botanical Gardens, Miami were identified as the passionvine mealybug. A second suspect specimen was collected in Palm Beach County in June 2011.

**DESCRIPTION:** In the field, populations of *P. minor* are indistinguishable from those of the citrus mealybug (*P. citri*). Females are oval, 2-3.5 mm long, generally with a light yellow body color that may be obscured by wax. They are typically covered in a light dusting of white powdery wax with elongate projections of denser wax around the circumference of the body (Fig. 1). Often, beneath or beside the female on the plant surface is a larger and more fluffy patch of wax called the ovisac, enmeshed in which can be found light yellow eggs and crawlers (Fig. 2). In heavy infestations, eggs, crawlers, immatures and adult females can be found distributed on the same scruffy-looking patch of wax (Fig. 3).

**NATURAL ENEMIES:** No natural enemies are known to occur in Florida, but numerous predators and parasitoids that attack the citrus mealybug do occur in Florida, and are likely also to attack this insect. Some predators and parasitoids used to control the citrus mealybug are available commercially.

**HOSTS:** The host list for the passionvine mealybug is extensive, exceeding 250 species in 80 plant families with hosts of relevance for Florida agriculture and horticulture in the following plant families: Anacardiaceae (*Mangifera indica*); Annonaceae (*Annona* spp.); Araceae; Arecaceae; Cucurbitaceae (*Cucumis* spp., *Cucurbita* spp.); Euphorbiaceae; Fabaceae; Malvaceae (*Gossypium hirsutum*, *Hibiscus* spp.); Moraceae; Musaceae; Rutaceae (*Citrus* spp.); Solanaceae (*Solanum* spp., *Lycopersicon esculentum*, *Capsicum frutescens*); Verbenaceae (*Clerodendrum* spp.); Zingiberaceae

**DISTRIBUTION:** Global in distribution in suitable climate zones. Recorded from Florida and Hawaii in the U.S, and Mexico.



## EVENTS UPDATE ~ mark your calendar!

### Seminole County Extension

Home Horticulture

407-665-5550

250 W. County Home Rd  
Sanford FL 32773  
Located across from Flea  
World, 17-92 & County Home  
Road

— — — — —  
Your Community Resource  
For  
Gardening And Landscaping  
Information

— — — — —  
[www.seminolecountyfl.gov/  
extensionservices](http://www.seminolecountyfl.gov/extensionservices)

Cooperative Extension  
Services

**SEMINOLE GREENTHUMB**  
Free quarterly  
Newsletter

To receive by email  
[AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:AFerrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

#### **Newsletter Contributors:**

*Dr. Al Ferrer  
Rudy White  
Mary Allen  
Gabrielle Milch  
Dave Grace  
Jim Bourg  
Stephanie Powers*

**Seminole County:**  
**USDA Hardiness**  
**Zone 9b**  
**Amer.Hort.Soc.**  
**Heat Zone 10**

October 6 , 2011  
6:30pm- 8:30pm

Wildflowers & native Plants  
FREE!!!!  
Seminole County Ext. Aud.  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
For Questions 407-665-5575  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

October 8, 2011  
9:30am-11:30am

Right Plant, Right Place  
FREE!!!!  
Seminole County Ext. Auditorium  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
For Questions 407-665-5575  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

October 15, 2011  
9:00am-NOON

Intro to plants for Cen. Fl. Gardens  
Seminole County Extension Aud.  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
Pre Registration \$10.00@ door  
For Questions 407-665-5550  
[aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

October 22, 2011  
9:00am-NOON

Intro to plants for Cen. Fl. Gardens  
Seminole County Extension Aud.  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
Pre Registration \$10.00@ door  
For Questions 407-665-5550  
[aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:aferrer@seminolecountyfl.gov)

October 29, 2011  
10:00am-4:00pm

Seminole County Master  
Gardener EXPO  
FREE !!!!!  
Seminole County Ext. Center  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
Expert Speakers & Demonstrations  
Educational Exhibits, Book signing  
Plants & Horticulture for sale  
MUCH MORE !!!!!

<http://seminolemastergardenershow.org>

November 10, 2011  
6:30pm-8:30pm

Winter Preparedness & Your Yard  
FREE !!!!!  
Seminole County Extension Aud.  
250 W. County Home Rd. Sanford  
For Questions 407-665-5575  
[fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov](mailto:fyn@seminolecountyfl.gov)

